

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 L-03 FRB-01 OMB-01 TAR-01 SP-02

AGR-10 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-04 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 CEA-01

AF-06 ARA-10 EA-10 NEA-10 OPIC-06 NSC-05 SS-15 /136 W

----- 001543

R 081552Z AUG 75

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5147

INFO USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

UNCLAS GENEVA 6224

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNCTAD EMIN ETRD

SUBJECT: UNCTAD TDB-COMMODITIES

SUMMARY: UNCTAD SECRETARIAT PLANS INFORMAL MEETING ON ITS
WORK ON INTERGRATED PROGRAM FOR COMMODITIES AUGUST 18.
GENEVA GROUP B CAUCUS DISCUSSES
PREPARATION DECEMBER UNCTAD COMMODITIES COMMITTEE
MEETING, RECOMMENDING USE OF OECD TCWP. END SUMMARY.

1. SECRETARIAT HAS INDICATED IT PLANS TO CONVENE FIRST
INFORMAL MEETING OF TYPE AGREED TO AT RECENT COMMODITIES
COMMITTEE MEETING FOR MONDAY, AUGUST 18. THIS MEETING
WOULD BE WITH GROUP B COUNTRIES AND SIMILAR INFORMAL
MEETING WOULD BE HELD SUBSEQUENTLY WITH GROUP OF 77
COUNTRIES. AT GROUP B CAUCUS THERE WAS GENERAL CONCURRENCE
TO THIS DATE AND TO IDEA THAT SECRETARIAT WOULD CONSULT
SEPARATELY WITH GROUP B COUNTRIES AND GROUP OF 77 COUNTRIES.
(BELGIUM MADE POINT THAT SECRETARIAT SHOULD BE TOLD THAT
GROUP D SHOULD ALSO BE KEPT INVOLVED.) GROUP B CAUCUS
ALSO SPECIFIED THAT IT SHOULD BE MADE CLEAR TO
SECRETARIAT THAT CONSULTATION WOULD BE BETWEEN
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SECRETARIAT AND INDIVIDUAL GROUP B COUNTRIES, NOT

WITH GROUP B AS A UNIT, AND THAT THERE WOULD BE NO SPOKESMAN FOR GROUP BA AS SUCH AT MEETING. GROUP B CAUCUS ALSO DISCUSSED MEXICAN PROPOSAL THAT THERE BE FORMAL REPORTS ON EACH OF INFORMAL MEETINGS AND AGREED TO OPPOSE THIS IDEA ON GROUNDS THAT IT WOULD OVERLY FORMALIZE PROCEDURES AND COULD CHANGE NATURE OF MEETINGS AGREED TO BY COMMODITIES COMMITTEE.

2. GROUP B COORDINATOR (CUTTAT, SWITZERLAND) STRESSED NEED FOR PREPARING FOR DECEMBER COMMODITIES COMMITTEE MEETING BY PREPARATORY MEETINGS IN OECD TCWP. HE SUGGESTED PRELIMINARY MEETING LATE SEPTEMBER OR EARLY OCTOBER AND SECOND MEETING SHORTLY BEFORE DECEMBER UNCTAD MEETING. (IDEA OF SUCH MEETINGS HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN DISCUSSED AND SUPPORTED IN GROUP B CAUCUS DURING RECENT COMMODITIES COMMITTEE MEETING.) THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT SUCH PREPARATORY MEETINGS WOULD BE VERY USEFUL, WITH UK DEL EVEN SUGGESTING THAT PERHAPS THREE SUCH TCWP MEETINGS WOULD BE NEEDED. MOST MEMBERS, HOWEVER, EXPRESSED DOUBT WHETHER TIMING OF FIRST SUCH MEETING COULD BE RECOMMENDED UNTIL THERE WAS GREATER CERTAINTY ABOUT WHEN UNCTAD DOCUMENTATION WOULD BE AVAILABLE. CUTTAT EXPRESSED VIEW THAT FOR ONCE UNCTAD SECRETARIAT WOULD GET DOCUMENTS OUT REASONABLY EARLY, THUS DEPRIVING GROUP B OF ANY EXCUSE FOR NOT BEING PREPARED TO DISCUSS THEM AT DECEMBER COMMODITIES COMMITTEE MEETING. OECD SECRETARIAT NOTED THAT OECD SCHEDULE VERY HEAVY FOR LATE SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER AND THAT IT WOULD BE HIGHLY DESIRABLE TO HAVE EARLY INDICATION, AT LEAST CONCERNING WEEK WITHIN WHICH FIRST TCWP MEETING ON THIS SUBJECT SHOULD BE HELD SO THAT ARRANGEMENTS FOR MEETING ROOM, ETC., COULD BE MADE. IT WAS AGREED TO REVERT TO THIS QUESTION NEXT WEEK.

3. COMMENT. WE ASSUME DEPT AGREES DESIRABILITY SUCH TCWP MEETINGS. HOWEVER, WE UNCLEAR AS TO WHETHER SEPARATE MEETINGS SHOULD BE SCHEDULED EXPRESSLY TO PREPARE FOR DECEMBER UNCTAD MEETING, OR WHETHER THIS ASPECT COMMODITY WORK SHOULD BE TIED IN TO TCWP MEETINGS ALSO DEVOTED TO OTHER ASPECTS OECD WORK THIS SUBJECT. ANY UNCLASSIFIED

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USOECD COMMENTS WOULD BE USEFUL. IN ANY CASE, REQUEST GUIDANCE BY AUGUST 13 RE US VIEWS ON CONVENIENT TIME FOR FIRST TCWP MEETING TO PREPARE FOR DECEMBER COMMODITIES COMMITTEE MEETING. TO ALLOW FOR POSSIBLE LATENESS OF DOCUMENTATION, SUGGEST FIRST MEETING BE SCHEDULED NO EARLIER THAN WEEK OF OCTOBER 6. MEETING LATER IN OCTOBER WOULD ALSO APPEAR ADEQUATE. BELIEVE US VIEW ON TIME SHOULD BE BASED ON AVAILABILITY SUITABLE

WASHINGTON EXPERT. (IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT MEETING DATE
WOULD BE ONLY TENTATIVE AND IF UNCTAD DOCUMENTATION NOT
AVAILABLE SUFFICIENTLY IN ADVANCE, MEETING WOULD BE
CANCELLED AND LATER DATE SOUGHT.) ABRAMS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMMODITIES, COMMITTEE MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975GENEVA06224
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750275-0283
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750871/aaaackdz.tel
Line Count: 119
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JAN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 JAN 2003 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <02 MAR 2004 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNCTAD TDB-COMMODITIES SUMMARY: UNCTAD SECRETARIAT PLANS INFORMAL MEETING ON ITS
TAGS: EMIN, ETRD, ECIN, UNCTAD, TDB
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006